GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5919
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
CASES PENDING IN I.T. APPELLATES TRIBUNALS
BALIRAM;NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of cases are pending before various Income Tax Appellates Tribunals throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to expedite the process?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE & COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a)&(b) As on 1st April, 2003, one lakh, eighty thousand, five hundred and seventy nine cases were pending before the 53 benches of Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in the country.

(c) Following measures have been adopted to reduce pendency of cases in ITAT:

(i) Government sanctioned 15 additional benches for ITAT in 1997 and all these benches have been made functional.

(ii) Cases involving similar issues are clubbed; small cases and covered cases, i.e. cases covered by decisions of Hon`ble Supreme Court, High Courts and ITAT are identified and these cases are posted out of turn and disposed regularly.

(iii) The limit for appeals to be heard by Single Members has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iv) Direct filing of appeals in High Courts under amended provisions of Section 260(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(v) A special drive to dispose of Single Member Cases has been ordered by the President of ITAT, for all benches throughout the country where pendency is more with effect from 17.03.2003 for period of three weeks.